(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of militants killed and arrested under this operation, and the quantity of explosive material seized from them;

(d) whether it is a fact that ULFA militants are getting aid from other countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Since January 1997, a Unified Headquarter has been functioning in Assam to coordinate the Counter Insurgency Operations of the Army, Central Police Forces and State Police against the militant outfits including United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA). During the current year, (upto the 13th March 2007), 33 ULFA cadres have been killed in encounters and 114 arrested. Security Forces have also recovered 42 weapons including 9 AK series rifles, 56 grenades, 3 Improvised Explosive Devices (lEDs) and 18 Kilograms of explosive material.

'(d) and (e) Inputs received from intelligence agencies and media reports indicate that many insurgent groups are seeking shelter in some of the neighbouring countries.

(f)The issuehasbeen regularly taken up with neighbouring countries through diplomatic bilateral institutional mechanisms.

Problems in HAL

2470. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HAL is declaring highest-dividend of 166 per cent, after liquidating the entire Government loan, and running without Budgetary support, but there are several defects in the area of its-administration, finance, legal and technical, if so, the details including the weak areas;

(b) who are the major customers of HAL; and

(c) the percentage of Government and captive customers on the one side, and outsiders on the other, and the implications in case Government/ Captive market is not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) HAL has been consistently declaring dividends for the past several years including 166% dividend in the year 2005-2006. HAL does not get any budgetary support from the Government. There are no particular defects in the areas of administration, finance, legal-and technical. Of course, there is always scope of improvement in these areas.

(b) The Indian Armed Forces, *viz.,* Indian Air Force, Amry, Navy and the Indian Coast Guard are the major customers of HAL.

(c)As on 31st March 2006,87% of HAL's total business is with the Indian Defence service and the remaining 13 per cent with others, *i.e.* civil sectors and exports. HAL is working with global aerospace industries to develop and manufacture high end products both for civil and export markets.

Below standard military equipment from Russia

2471. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether military equipments supplied by Russia in recent years have been found to be below standard;

(b) whether product support also from Russia has been found to be not satisfactory;

(c) whether the Defence Ministry has taken-up the issue with the Government of Russia; and

(d) if so, what assurance, if any, the Government of India has been given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Defence equipments are procured from various indigenous and foreign sources including Russia. These are inducted after prescribed inspections and trials. India and Russia have a longstanding trade relationship in defnce sector. There is an Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation and there are Working Groups. The issues